

A RESOLUTION to designate the week of May 14-20, 1995,
"Osteoporosis Week".

WHEREAS, Osteoporosis, a bone-thinning disease, is a major public health problem that poses a threat to the health and quality of life to as many as 25 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, the 1.5 million fractures each year that result from osteoporosis cause pain, disability, immobility and social isolation, affecting quality of life and threatening people's ability to live independently; and

WHEREAS, because osteoporosis progresses silently and without sensation over many years, and many cases remain undiagnosed, its first symptom is often a fracture, typically of the hip, spine or wrist; and

WHEREAS, one of every two out women and one of every five out men will suffer an osteoporotic fracture in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, a woman's risk of hip fracture is equal to her combined risk of breast, uterine and ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, the annual direct and indirect costs of osteoporosis to the health care system were estimated to be as high as \$18 billion in 1993, and are expected to rise to \$60 - \$80 billion by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, since osteoporosis progresses silently and currently has no cure, prevention, early diagnosis and treatment are key to reducing the prevalence of and devastation from this disease; and

WHEREAS, although there exists a large quantity of public information about osteoporosis, it remains inadequately disseminated and not tailored to meet the needs of specific population groups; and

WHEREAS, most people, including physicians, health care providers and government agencies, continue to lack knowledge in the prevention, detection and treatment of the disease; and

WHEREAS, experts in the field of osteoporosis believe that with greater awareness of the value of prevention among medical experts, service providers and the public, osteoporosis will be preventable and treatable in the future, thereby reducing the costs of long-term care; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis is a multi-generational issue because building strong bones during youth and preserving them during adulthood may prevent fractures in later life; and

WHEREAS, educating the public and health care community throughout the state about this potentially devastating disease is of paramount importance and is in every respect in the public interest and to the benefit of all residents of the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby designate May 14-20, 1995, as "Osteoporosis Week" in an effort to raise awareness among Tennesseans about this unfortunate disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.

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